

REMARKS

The final Office Action mailed July 26, 2005, has been reviewed and carefully considered. Claims 1, 7, 17 and 23 have been amended and claims 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10, 11, 13, 19, 20, 21 and 22 have been canceled. Applicants appreciate Examiner's indication of allowability of claims 4-6, 10-12, and 20-22. Claims 1-2, 5, 8, 11, 12, 14-18, 21 and 23 are pending in the application.

In paragraph 5 on page 3 of the Office Action, claims 1-3, 7-9, 15-19, and 23 were rejected under § 102(b) over Hall (U.S. Patent 5,579,457).

In paragraph 7 on page 9 of the Office Action claim 13 was rejected under § 103(a) over Hall in view of Vaswani (U.S. Patent 5,835,097).

In paragraph 8 on page 10 of the Office Action, claim 14 was rejected under § 103(a) over Hall in view of Cunniff (U.S. Patent 5,842,015).

Applicants respectfully traverse the §§ 102(b) and 103(a) rejections, but in the interest of expediting prosecution have amended the claims to overcome the rejections. Claims 1, 7, 17 and 23 have been amended to include the claim language of objected to claims. Applicants appreciate Examiner's indication of allowability of claims 4-6, 10-12, and 20-22. Therefore, claim 1 has been combined with claim 4, claim 7 has been combined with claim 10 and claim 17 has been combined with claim 20. Claim 23 has been similarly amended.

On the basis of the above amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the claims are in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, reconsideration of this application and its allowance are requested.

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If a telephone conference would be helpful in resolving any issues concerning this communication, please contact Attorney for Applicant, David W. Lynch, at 423-757-0264.

Respectfully submitted,

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